

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Update from Measured Progress on the work to produce the 2006-07 assessment

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.6453

History/Background:

Existing Policy. After years of focused discussion and input from countless stakeholders, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) guided a process that ended March 2006 with the award of several assessment contracts including a prime contract that will assume major responsibility for development and implementation of the Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT).

In March of 2006, Measured Progress of Dover, New Hampshire was selected as the prime contractor for Kentucky's assessment system. Working as subcontractors to Measured Progress are the Collaborative for Teaching and Learning (CTL) of Louisville, Kentucky and WestEd from San Francisco, California. With the support of CTL around the writing portfolio and WestEd in item development, Measured Progress will develop, produce, implement, score, and report the KCCT.

A relationship began immediately upon signing of the contract and the work commenced with a face-to-face meeting between Department staff and Measured Progress representatives. Since the initial meeting, weekly conference calls and monthly face-to-face meetings have been augmented by countless emails and phone conversations.

Kentucky Department of Education staff held a meeting in April with both old and new contractors present to initiate the transition process between the two companies. Electronic transfers of information and materials have occurred and another face-to-face meeting of all contractors is scheduled for August.

Measured Progress conducted a field test in late spring to accommodate the increased demand for KCCT items in Reading and Mathematics in grades 3-8, and teacher advisory committees were convened to evaluate test items for bias, depth of knowledge, and match to the Core Content.

An additional face-to-face meeting was held with KDE and Measured Progress to hammer out issues around on-line assessment. Measured Progress has tested an application that will assure our on-line testing system will work with assistive technology

tools that students with disabilities may need to use. KDE has been given the opportunity for extensive input and a rigorous timeline has been developed to ensure successful implementation of the KCCT for our special needs students, which is the focus for on-line for 2006-07. As we improve the statewide technology infrastructure in schools and implement on-line testing this year for students with special needs, plans are being formulated to move us forward with on-line testing for the general population.

Beginning with the spring 2007 administration of the KCCT, all Kentucky tests will be processed through a distribution, scanning, and scoring center set up and operated by Measured Progress in Louisville. A site has been chosen and the processes for hiring and training staff determined.

Tim Crockett, Assistant Vice President of Measured Progress, will be present at the August KBE meeting to update the KBE on the specifics of the company's work to produce the 2006-07 assessment.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Continuation of a valid and reliable assessment is critical to Kentucky schools' progression toward proficiency.

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Commissioner of Education

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